THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) A petition was filed by the Safai Karmachari Andolan in November, 2003. The Supreme court had asked the Union of India and all State and UT Governments to file counter affidavit. The next hearing of the case is on 21.7.2006.

(d) Sanitation being a State subject, the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993 was enacted by the Parliament after the resolutions for Central legislation were passed by some State Legislatures. It, *interalia*, provides for prohibition of employment of manual scavengers as well as construction or continuance of dry latrines and for the regulation of construction and maintenance of water seal latrines and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(e) and (f) The State of Uttar Pradesh has filed more than 12500 prosecutions in the judicial courts for contravention of the provisions of the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993. The rest of information is being collected from the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, which is implementing the Act.

Inclusion of Thachar Community in SC List

3158. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 1914 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th December, 2002 and state:

(a) whether Government have received any comments from the Registrar General of India regarding the inclusion of 'Thachar' Community in the Scheduled Caste List;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) the latest position of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The comments of the Registrar General of India have been sent to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes for their comments, as per approved modalities.

Sub-classification of SCs

3159. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce a sub-classification among the SCs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria adopted for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) At present there is no proposal of Government of India to introduce sub-classification among Scheduled Castes.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Inclusion of Castes as OBCs/SCs

3160. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of States have included certain castes in the Other Backward Classes;

(b) if so, the details of States which have included certain castes in the OBC list;

(c) whether the Central Government have received requests from State Governments to include certain communities in the Scheduled Castes and OBC list;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Twenty three States have such lists of OBCs.

(c) to (e) The proposals for modifications in the list of SCs are processed as per approved modalities. 47 proposals have been referred to the Registrar General of India and 23 proposals have been referred to the National Commission for SCs for their comments.

Proposals/requests from 10 State Governments and 3 UT Administrations for inclusion of castes/communities in the Central List of OBCs are being processed in consultation with National Commission for Backward Classes.